

Appln No. 09/637,846

Amdt date January 12, 2004

Reply to Office action of November 20, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning ownership of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus, the method including:

identifying a target requested by a master;

assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level after the master requests the target, wherein the master is inactive until the master asserts a request signal when the master wants to take control of the PCI bus;

issuing a provisional grant to the master in response to the request signal;

determining if data associated with the target is available; and

assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is not available and assigning a second priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is available.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is not available comprises

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assigning a LOW priority level to the master if the data is not available.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a second priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is available comprises assigning a HIGH priority level to the master if the data is available.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the target uses delayed transactions to complete a read access.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the target integrates a buffer management scheme.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the buffer management scheme includes an input/output cache.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein identifying a target includes sending [a] the request signal from the master to an arbiter.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein assigning a second priority includes sending a modified request signal to the arbiter.